

Bonfield
Boone Creek Road & Riverview Avenue,
Oxford
Circa 1924

T-161

After fire destroyed the 18th Century house (T-160), John Lee Carroll Downes, vice-president of Durant Enterprises and president of the Liberty National Bank in New York City, built the present structure.

Standing on part of the original foundations and basement, this Colonial Revival dwelling is $1\frac{1}{2}$ stories tall and 7 bays wide. The main entrance is located in the center bay; all three center bays are recessed. Three dormers project above this recess. A balustrade encloses the large, flat roof, from which rise two chimneys; dormers pierce the open slopes of the gable roofs that cover the two-bay sections flanking the entrance recess.

East of the house is an interesting outbuilding with a steeply pitched gable roof and wide overhang. Its original use has been obscured by its conversion in the 1920s into an office with chauffeur quarters above.

Today Bonfield is remembered as the residence in the 1930s of Hervey Allen, author of the best-seller, Anthony Adverse.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

2101605704
T-161

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Bonfield Manor

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

(Riverside Avenue)

Rt. 333, .4 mile east of Oxford (south to house)

CITY, TOWN

Oxford

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Talbot

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☒ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Royce R. Spring

Telephone #: (301) 226-5127

STREET & NUMBER

Bonfield

CITY, TOWN

Oxford

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21654

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Courthouse

Liber #: 384

Folio #: 585

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

T-161

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Standing on part of the original foundations of Bonfield is a one and one-half story 'H' plan house constructed after the fire in 1924 which destroyed the 18th century chamberlaine mansion.

The present building is seven bays wide with the central bays being recessed between two gable ends. Above the entrance recess are three dormers. A balustrade extends around a large flat roof from which two brick chimneys rise. On the east side of the house is a small extension extending the depth of the house. As the house is raised upon a man-made knoll, like neighboring Plimhimmon, the basement is at ground level on the east. Across the south facade is an enclosed porch.

East of the house stands an interesting and unusual outbuilding with steep pitched 'A' roof with wide overhang. Its original use is not now remembered because it had been converted into an office for Carroll Downes in the 20's with chaffeur's quarters above. The initials of Downes are still attached to its chimney. Today it has a leanto and is a complete house in itself.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

T-161

PERIOD

—PREHISTORIC
—1400-1499
—1500-1599
—1600-1699
—1700-1799
—1800-1899
☒ 1900-

—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
—AGRICULTURE
☒ ARCHITECTURE
—ART
—COMMERCE
—COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

—COMMUNITY PLANNING
—CONSERVATION
—ECONOMICS
—EDUCATION
—ENGINEERING
—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
—INDUSTRY
—INVENTION

—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
—LAW
☒ LITERATURE
—MILITARY
—MUSIC
—PHILOSOPHY
—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

—RELIGION
—SCIENCE
—SCULPTURE
—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
—THEATER
—TRANSPORTATION
—OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As it stands today Bonfield is a good example of the 1920's Colonial Revival in simple form. It is also important because it was owned in the 1930's by Harvey Allen, author of "Anthony Adverse".

More important than the present dwelling was the fact that the 18th century mansion of the Chamberlains was situated over part of the same foundations.

The early house was nearly square, three bays wide across its principal (north) facade and two rooms deep. On the east the basement was at ground level but elsewhere the man-made knoll rose about four feet. Across the facade was an Ionic portico. Its central entrance has a pedimented architrave. On the second story there appears to have been a small gallery. In the jerkin head roof were two 20th century dormers and between the two large chimneys was a balustrade. Across the south facade, which appears to have been four bays wide was a one story glass porch.

Inside, the floorplan was like Galloway near Easton. The entire north half of the house was an open stair hall, but originally was a stair-hall and smaller enclosed room. The south half of the house contained living room and dining room.

Each of the three first floor fireplaces had handsome mantels of the Revolutionary period. Only the dining room had a wood frame around the plaster overmantel. Each of the rooms had plain wood dado with recessed panels only beneath the windows. Flanking each fireplace were two six panel doors, to either closets, the other room, or dumb waiter. Of the cornices, the living room was the more elaborate, with a course of dentils to match those of the mantel. The others were bold and plainer.

In the basement were located the kitchen and servants dining room, storage room and vault, the latter still remains beneath the "new" house.

From the photos in possession of Mrs. R.T. Addis, Haverford, PA, the building appears unique for Talbot County, being a two and one-half story frame building with jerkin head roof; however, the interior is comparable to work in Galloway and Pleasant Valley, also in the County, which are the best of Talbot's Revolutionary architecture.

John Lee Carroll Downes lived at Bonfield in the 1920's and built the present dwelling after the great house burned. In 1918 he was elected an officer of the Philadelphia National Bank, Philadelphia and later joined with William C. Durant, then president of General Motors Corporation, becoming vice-president of all the Durant Enterprises and later president of the Liberty National Bank, New York City. He was at one time an officer and director of more than 60 large corporations.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 Continued

In 1926, Mr. Downes retired from active business to his home, "Bonfield Manor", an early Colonial mansion near Oxford, Eastern Shore. Maryland during which time he engaged in research and industrial consulting work in this country and abroad.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

T-161

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION _____

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____

COUNTY _____

STATE _____

COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

April, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

2101617904

<p>1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Talbot</u> TOWN <u>Oxford</u> VICINITY <u>River View Avenue</u> STREET NO. <u>Boone Creek Rd., 4 mile</u> <u>South of Rt 33</u> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>Jonathan S. Wilford</u> PRESENT USE <u>dwelling</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>frame</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>2</u></p>	<p>HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>T-161</u></p> <p>2. NAME <u>East Bonfield</u></p> <p>DATE OR PERIOD STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>
---	--

<p>4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION</p> <p>OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>no</u></p>
<p>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior</p>



<p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> <p>8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p>	<p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p> <p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>MDR</u> <u>5/69</u></p> <p>DATE OF RECORD</p>
--	--

PHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTO



Bonfield

T-160 T-161



J. Tyler Campbell
FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTER TOWN, MARYLAND

N.

M. Bourne

Aug 1976



10 x 1.88

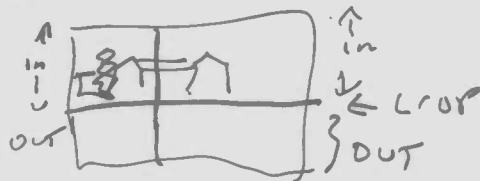
75% 161

~~160-BT-161~~

Bonfield

(pls. crop line OUT!)

fr. bottom





Bonfield

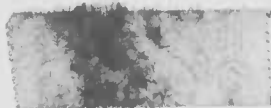
Smokehouse ?

T-160

T-161

Dolba 1900

1900



J. Tyler Campbell
FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

N.

M. Browne

Aug 1976